



Funded by  
the European Union



ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
AGENTUR FÜR  
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE  
INTEGRITÄT

# Developing a research integrity promotion plan

Teodora Konach

Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI)

Twining project

Supporting inter-sectoral collaboration possibilities between research and Industry


Tbilisi, 21 February 2023

This slides have been produced with the assistance of the European Union.

Its contents are the sole responsibility of the project partners and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

# Crisis of truth and trust

**PLOS MEDICINE**

 OPEN ACCESS

ESSAY

## Why Most Published Research Findings Are False

John P. A. Ioannidis

Published: August 30, 2005 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0020124>

Brief report

### The carnage of substandard research during the COVID-19 pandemic: a call for quality **FREE**

 [Katrina A Bramstedt](#) <sup>1, 2</sup>

Correspondence to Professor Katrina A Bramstedt, Bond University Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia; [txbioethics@yahoo.com](mailto:txbioethics@yahoo.com)

### Please Commit More Blatant Academic Fraud

Posted on May 29, 2021

This week, I was thrilled to read about [the first well-documented case of explicit academic fraud in the artificial intelligence community](#). I hope that this is the beginning of a trend, and that other researchers will be inspired by their example and follow up by engaging in even more blatant forms of fraud in the future.

# Research Misconduct

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online



## How Many Scientists Fabricate and Falsify Research? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Survey Data

Daniele Fanelli\*

INNOGEN and ISSTI-Institute for the Study of Science, Technology & Innovation, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Fanelli D (2009)

PLoS ONE 4(5):

e5738. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0005738>

2 % of scientists **admitted** to have fabricated, falsified or modified data or results at least once

Up to 34 % admit other questionable research practices (QRP)

14 % of scientists **observed** fabrication, falsification or modification done by colleagues

Up to 72 % observed others doing questionable research practices (QRP)

21 studies included; „tip of the iceberg“

# (Ir)Responsible research practice

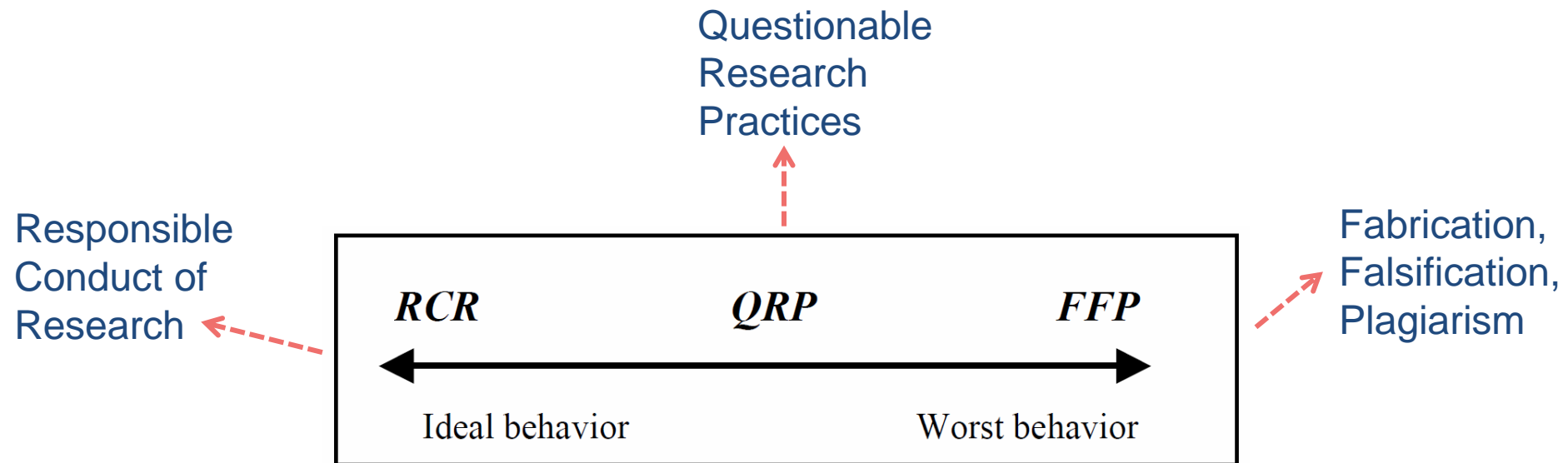
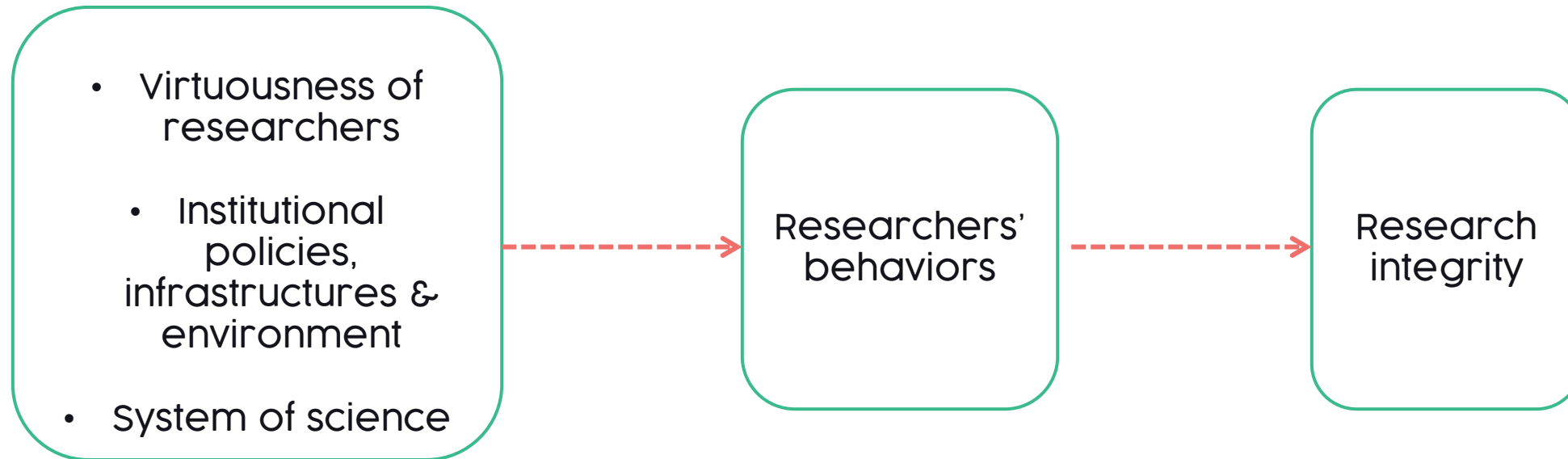


Fig. 1. Current framework for Defining Research Behaviors

(Source: Steneck 2006, 54)

Most of the research integrity breaches are in the QRP zone

# Factors influencing RI



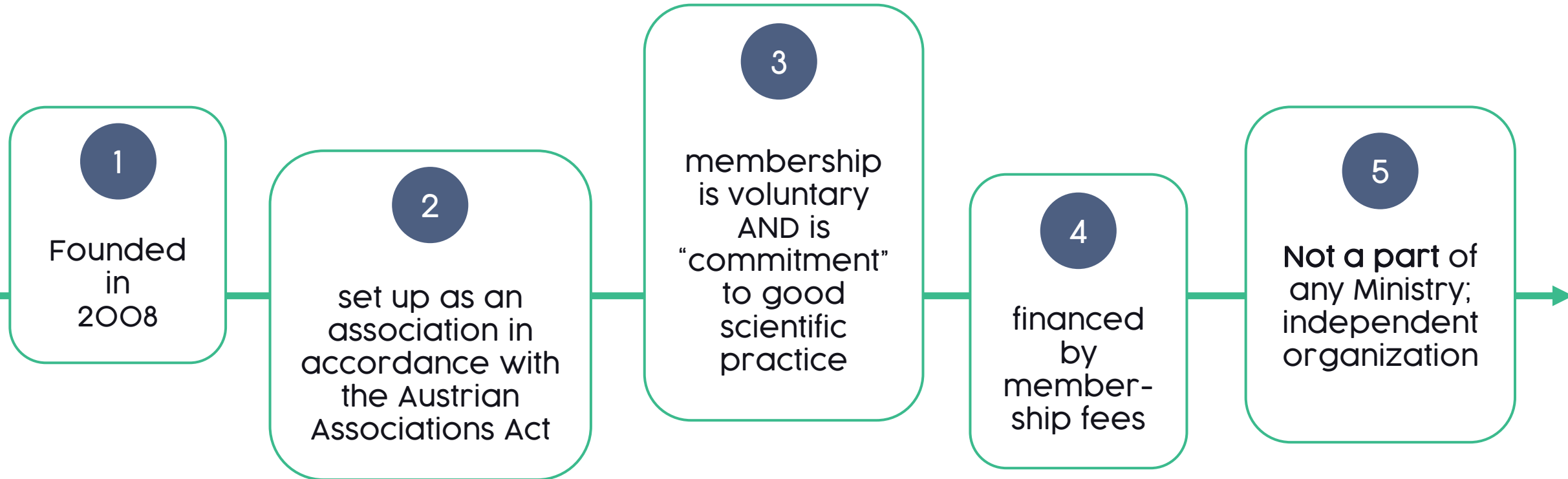
**RI is not only the responsibility of individual researchers**

# Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice

## Setting the organisational framework

# Austrian Agency for Research Integrity

OeAWI



## Administrative office:

- **First point of contact** in cases of alleged research misconduct
- **Communication with all persons involved**
- **Support and Advising of the Commission** (e.g. international context)



## Commission

- **Responsible for investigating cases** of (alleged) research misconduct thoroughly and objectively.
- It constitutes an **independent body** and consists of renowned researchers, mainly from abroad
- It is responsible for cases in **Austria**, related to Austria or involving Austrian researchers
- Representing **different fields**: humanities, law, social sciences, life sciences, natural and technical sciences, economic sciences and medical sciences

# Tasks of the OeAWI

Focus on information and prevention

- **Prevention & Raising Awareness**  
(e.g. Training)
- **Advising**
- **Investigation**
- **National & International Networking**

## Investigation

Investigation of  
allegations of cases  
of research  
misconduct

## Prevention

Awareness for the  
Standards of Good  
Scientific Practice

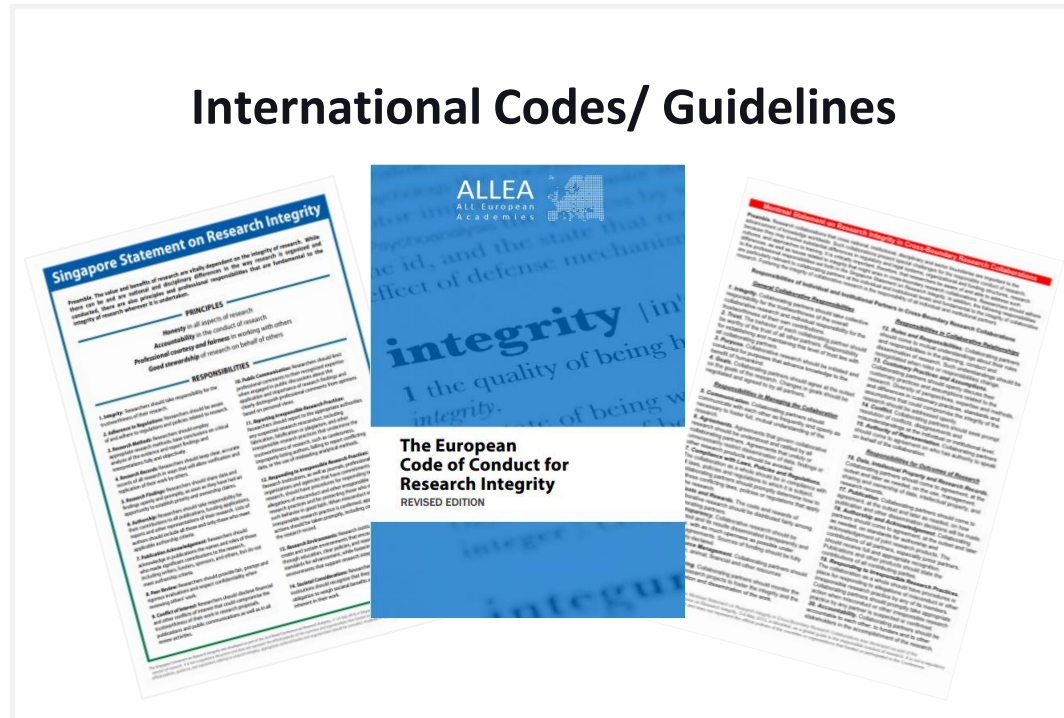
## Training

Facilitation of Good  
Scientific Practice

# Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice

Setting the policy and regulatory framework

# Codes / Guidelines



[www.wcrif.org/guidance](http://www.wcrif.org/guidance)

[www.allea.org](http://www.allea.org)

[www.oewi.at](http://www.oewi.at)

# All European Academies (ALLEA) The European Code of Conduct

published in 2017 (2022/2023 under revision)



Good research practices are based on fundamental principles of research integrity. They guide researchers in their work as well as in their engagement with the practical, ethical and intellectual challenges inherent in research.

These principles are:

- **Reliability** in ensuring the quality of research, reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources.
- **Honesty** in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair, full and unbiased way.
- **Respect** for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment.
- **Accountability** for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider impacts.

# Common guidelines

published in April 2015

**JOINT PROCESS (2014/2015):**

**Discussed with and approved by  
(then) 37 member organisations**



# Research Misconduct & breaches of GSP rules: most frequent problems



# Research Misconduct

OeAWI guidelines for GSP



Research misconduct refers to

- wilful
- conscious or
- grossly negligent

violations of the **standards of GSP (§ 2)**.



# Research Misconduct

OeAWI guidelines for GSP



FFP

- Fabrication of data
- Falsification of data
- Plagiarism

# Research Misconduct

OeAWI guidelines for GSP



- Unjustified refusal to provide access to primary and original data
- Obstructing the research activities of other scientists/researchers
- Sabotaging research activities
- Providing inaccurate information in a grant proposal which may place competing scientists/researchers at a disadvantage
- Creating disadvantages to the career advancement of whistle-blowers

# Research Misconduct

OeAWI guidelines for GSP



Research misconduct can also include involvement in other persons' violations, e.g.:

- Active involvement in the misconduct of others
- Co-authorship of publications based on falsified data or otherwise generated through violations of the GSP-standards
- Neglect of supervisory obligations

# Out of scope of these rules....

- Statements within the scientific discourse
  - Errors made in good faith
- 

- Mobbing
- Sexual harassment
- ...

# How to foster Research Integrity?

What can a research/funding institution do?

- Aspirational guidance needs to be translated to **concrete policies**
- With the goal to **support** researchers and institutions
- The plan should be **comprehensive and tangible** to address various dimensions of RI

# From principles to practice

## How to develop a Research Integrity Promotion Plan



All research performing organizations (RPOs) and research funding organizations (RFOs) should have a RIPP

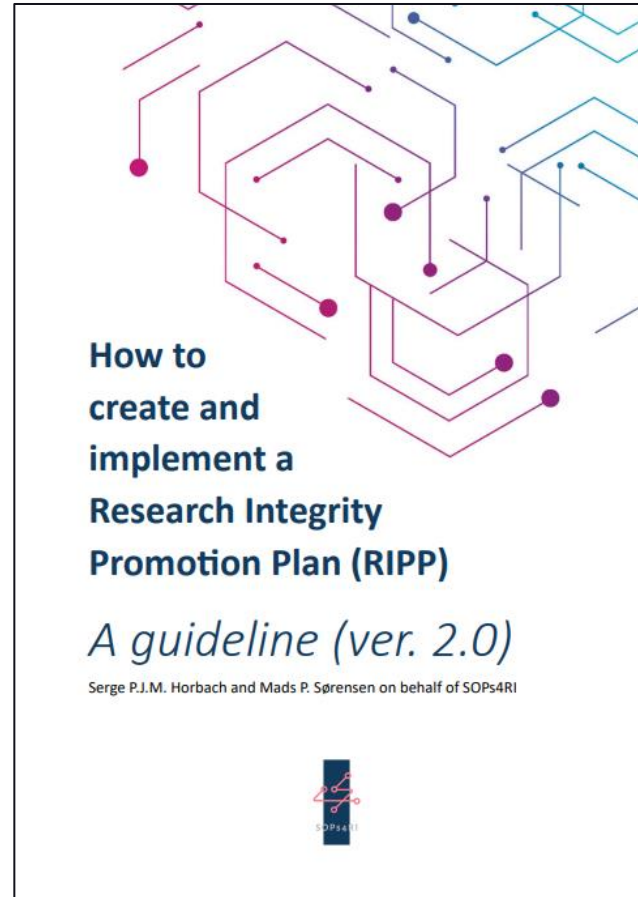
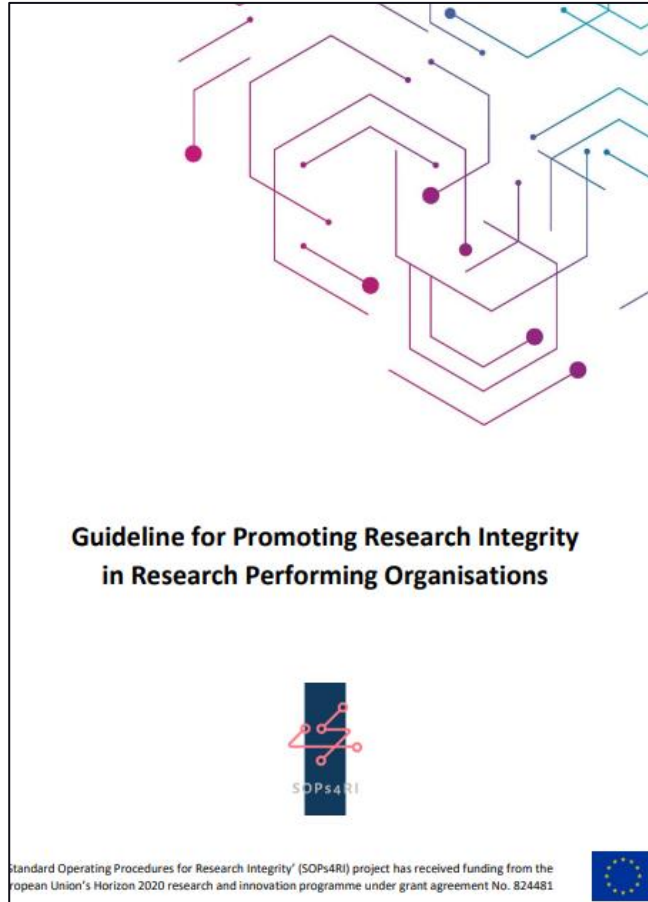
- The RIPP should outline the **steps** that the RPO or RFO will take to promote research integrity in the context of its mission and disciplinary focus
- It should **address a number of RI topics** – and outline policies for how these topics will be handled.



Funded by  
the European Union



The way forward:  
Research integrity by design



SOPs4RI